



# Latino Advisory Council

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Association House  
1116 N Kedzie Ave  
Chicago, IL 60651

## **Chair-Person:**

Nancy Rodriguez

## **Past**

## **Chair-Person:**

Juanita Calderon

## **Chair-Elect:**

Julia Monzon

## **Scribe:**

Patricia Boscan

## **DCFS Members:**

Vanessa Castro  
Yvonne Cordero  
Jose Garcia  
Maria Hernandez  
Sydney Juarez  
Evelyn Martinez  
Azalea Mejia  
Beatriz Ramirez  
Yeni Rojas  
Liliana Romero

## **POS Members:**

Patricia Aguilar  
Jennifer Contreras  
Lisa Marie Perez

## **Ex Officio**

## **Members:**

Jose J. Lopez, OLS  
Daniel Fitzgerald

## **Committees:**

Child Safety and  
Permanency

Community Risk  
Reduction and  
Staffing

Data validity and  
Disproportionality

Strategic  
Communications

Latino Family  
Institute

Ad Hoc: POS

## **Amended Minutes**

**Present:** Nancy Rodriguez; Patricia Boscan; Jose Garcia; Yeni Rojas; Jose Lopez; Daniel Fitzgerald

## **By Phone:**

**Excused:** Patricia Aguilar; Juanita Calderon; Vanessa Castro; Jennifer Contreras; Yvonne Cordero; Maria Hernandez; Sydney Juarez; Evelyn Martinez; Azalea Mejia; Julia Monzon; Lisa M. Perez; Beatriz Ramirez; Liliana Romero

**Guests:** Coty Corcoles; Jose A. Medina; Cynthia Valentin; Daizy Salgado

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

## **Welcome/Reminders/Values/Team Building Exercise**

Nancy Rodriguez opened the meeting and welcomed all. Daniel Fitzgerald led all members present to introduce themselves and give a positive occurrence in their recent lives. The LAC Statement of Values was read by each member. Nancy reviewed Robert's Rules of Order.

## **Retention Voting**

Voting was tabled for lack of quorum.

## **Review & Approval of February and March Minutes**

Review and approval was tabled for lack of quorum.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Child Safety & Permanency**

Yeni Rojas welcomes new committee members to the team. Yeni expressed the committee is working in collaboration with contracts to ensure everyone has access to information provided such as Spanish-speaking resources available. The committee was advised by other members to contact Lourdes Rodriguez, Beatriz Ramirez and Darryl Johnson for available Spanish-speaking foster homes, capacity, etc. The group questioned where there is a need and what age group is most lacking in these resources. Jose A. Medina advised the committee look to existing structures that may possibly have such collection of information (Office of Latino Services, Burgos Coordinator), in order to not duplicate efforts. Daniel states this is where Latino Consortium becomes crucial for

collaboration. Guest, Cynthia asserted that weeding out recruited foster homes, “falls on agency and team” or DCFS policy and procedures change.

### **Community Risk Reduction & Staffing**

Jose Garcia reported that the committee is invested in developing Survey Monkey for supervisors and administrators. The committee forwarded a copy to Daniel to further develop questions. The committee also expressed a need for further guidance regarding issues within committee concerning boundaries and negativity.

### **Data Validity & Disproportionality**

Nancy reported the committee had met with the contracts administrator, Douglas Washington, to go over information and he will follow up with feedback on contracts. The committee will follow up on a short list not including child welfare agencies. Jose Lopez offered to assist and work on the list.

Yeni voices question asking if committees are to focus on annual goals. Daniel offered to send email with goals established at the past annual retreat to recommit, edit and make decisions. He posed a question to the group asking how our goals interconnect with other committees’.

### **Strategic Communications**

Patricia Boscan reported that E-blasts will be disseminated quarterly. Julia Monzon is to contact Jose A. Medina before having issues getting workshops together for Professional Development Day.

### **POS**

Cynthia reported the committee is gathering contact information (current CEO, address, phone) to inquire participation for the revival of the Latino Consortium. The committee is focused on bilingual differential pay and helping Jose L. create a uniform process. Azalea Mejia expressed her access to contracts and her ability to serve as a contact to differential pay.

### **Office of Latino Services Report**

Jose Lopez reported the Office continuously working on recruitments. Jose L. also reported working with consulates of countries like Guatemala and Colombia. He relayed an issue with Puerto Rico as the Puerto Rico Federation Building no longer exists. Now the process involves contacting Washington D.C. to place children in Puerto Rico. Jose L. also asked the group that as we continue to see PSA bilingual

positions open, we need to encourage our counterparts and colleagues and be more vigilant. Jose A. Medina asked if there is a memorandum for consulates. Jose L. said he has a list of direct numbers and specific contacts.

### **Burgos Coordinator Report**

Daniel announced Marc D. Smith as the new acting director of DCFS. He asks the group to think how we can help him be successful in collaboration for our children's services. He reminded the Council of its duty to take trainings such as limited English proficiency, Burgos Consent Decree, Burgos training mandatory language barriers. Daniel reported submitting the State's Assurance Act to the Director's Office April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 with 62 Spanish-speaking hires (most documented on record), 171 Spanish-speaking staff, 257 Latino/Hispanic staff and nine Spanish-speaking SPSA's (the most in state agencies).

### **Old Business**

#### **Immigration Position Paper**

There are no new updates on immigration position paper.

#### **Director's Letter and Meeting**

Nancy made a request for director's meeting. Jose A. Medina says most pressing issue is the absence of Burgos homes and promotion of Latinos stating we are not where we need to be with hires. Daniel advises that two phases should be: director's meeting and approaching deputies to work things out with agreements and understanding. It was mentioned that Evelyn Martinez created a list of employees with MSW's (about 26) and are interested in promotion.

#### **LAC Historical Document**

Jose A. Medina voiced concern that letter is not done. The Lac historical document was created to present to directors between agencies. Jose L. suggested the historical document be referred to the executive committee.

#### **Changes/Corrections to Bylaws**

Item was tabled.

### **New Business**

#### **Next Meeting at DCFS, Springfield IL 05/15/2019**

Meeting remains as scheduled on calendar, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Jose L. to forward bus information for Springfield Latino Unity Day. Concerns were voiced about not having enough members at Springfield meeting if the date is not changed to coincide with Latino Unity Day. It was agreed that meeting with other members of the Springfield community was of

importance to the Council. Meeting time will be adjusted to account for travel times.

**Joint Advisory Council Meeting  
(tentative date 08/14/2019)**

**Open Forum for Members**

None.

**Open Forum for Guests**

Daisy asks about letter to CEO's, Nancy suggests identifying information.

Meeting adjourned 12:13 p.m.

**Scribe, Patricia Boscan**